

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1.- 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The steel according to claim **[[1]] 28**, consisting essentially of a uniform ferrite-pearlite.

21. (Currently Amended) The steel according to claim **[[1]] 28**, being hardened to have a surface hardness of 58 HRC or more by induction heating and quenching.

22. (Previously Presented) The steel according to claim 21, being treated with tempering to have a surface hardness of 52 HRC or more.

23. (Currently Amended) The steel according to claim **[[1]] 28**, further comprising a hardened surface comprising martensite in a ratio of 90 % or more.

24. (Previously Presented) The steel according to claim 22, wherein the tempering is performed by keeping the steel at 300 °C.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a steel for a high-strength race, including:

producing a steel comprising the following elements, in percentage by weight:

C: 0.3 to 0.6%;

Si: 0.3 to 1.3%;

Mn: 0.5 to 1.5%;

B: 0.005% or less;

Cr: 0.1 to 0.5%;

Mo: 0.1 to 0.5%;

Ni: 0.02 to 1.0%;

balance being Fe and unavoidable impurities,

wherein the total amount of Si and Mo is in a range from 0.5 to 1.4%; and  
treating the steel by warm-forging under a heating condition between 720 °C and 790 °C and normalizing to obtain a surface hardness of the steel in the range from 91 to 96 HRB.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein normalizing is performed by keeping the steel at  $850 \pm 10$  °C.

28. (Previously Presented) A steel for a high-strength race comprising:

a Fe based steel, comprising the following elements, in percentage by weight:

C: 0.3 to 0.6%;

Si: 0.3 to 1.3%;

Mn: 0.5 to 1.5%;

B: 0.005% or less;

Cr: 0.1 to 0.5%;

Mo: 0.1 to 0.5%;

Ni: 0.02 to 1.0%;

wherein the total amount of Si and Mo is in a range from 0.5 to 1.4% and the steel is treated by warm-forging performed under a heating condition between 720 °C and 790 °C, normalizing performed by keeping the steel at  $850 \pm 10$  °C, cooling at a rate of 3 to 10 °C/min. after normalizing, keeping the steel at 550 °C for 20 minutes or more and cooling to ambient temperature in air so that a surface hardness thereof is in a range from 91 to 96 HRB.

29. (Previously Presented) A steel for a high-strength race according to claim 28, the Fe based steel further comprising, one or more elements selected from the group consisting of the following elements in percentage by weight: Bi: 0.05% or less, S: 0.10% or less, Ca: 0.01% or less, Zr: 0.10% or less, Sb: 0.10% or less and Pb: 0.01% or less.

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Previously Presented) A steel for a high-strength race according to claim 28, wherein the steel is capable of being hardened to 58 HRC.